

OGC Has Reviewed

Planned 4-1
14 June - 51
350

MEMORANDUM FOR: A-7D/Administration. (General)

SUBJECT: Delegation of Authority to Make Awards

1. Reference is made to your oral request concerning the delegability of the Director's authority to make awards to CIA employees. Because of the various types of recognition which may be accorded, we shall discuss each one separately.

2. Cash awards for suggestions which result in improvement or economy in the operations of the Agency. Section 11 of Public Law 600 (50 USC 116a) gives authority to make such awards to the "head of each department." Neither Section 11, nor the Executive Order issued pursuant thereto (No. 9817) contains an express provision for delegation of this authority. However, in view of the recent Congressional trend toward broader powers of delegation, and the Comptroller General's recognition of such a trend, it is our opinion that this authority may be delegated by the Director.

a. In this connection, it may be of some interest to mention that the Comptroller General, and only the Comptroller General, signs the papers when such awards are given to GAO employees. A specially-appointed committee meets monthly to consider such awards, but only the Comptroller General authorizes payment.

3. Award of appropriate certificates, medals, or other emblems, in honorary recognition of service which is exceptional or meritorious. Section 5 of Executive Order 9817, which was issued pursuant to Public Law 600, authorizes this action for service "determined by the head of the department" to be exceptional or meritorious. There is no express provision for delegation of this authority, but it is our opinion that the Director may do so.

4. Cash awards for efficiency. Technically speaking, not even the Director of Central Intelligence has specific legal authority to make such a cash award. Title I of Public Law 429 (81st Congress) directs most agencies of the Government to take steps to grant cash awards. However, CIA is exempt from this law, thereby reserving any specific



FOIAb5

FOIAb5

FOIAb5

5. Salary increases for efficiency. Technically speaking, not even the Director has specific authority to grant such a salary increase, for the same reason expressed in the preceding paragraph. Consequently, any such action must be based on the Director's general authority regarding personnel. Since the Director may appoint, and delegate the power to appoint personnel, we know of no legal objection to the granting of salary increases for efficiency. Likewise, we know of no legal objection to delegation of this power.

6. Salary increases for superior accomplishment. Again speaking technically, not even the Director has specific authority to grant a salary increase for superior accomplishment. Title VII of Public Law 429 (81st Congress) authorizes such action, but, as mentioned above, this law does not apply to CIA. Consequently, any salary increases for superior accomplishment must be based on the Director's general authority regarding personnel. It is our opinion that he may grant such increases, and also delegate this power.

a. In this connection, your attention is invited to a letter to the head of the U.S. Civil Service Commission from Admiral Hillekoetter, dated 24 March 1960. Discussing the granting of within-grade pay increases for superior accomplishment, Admiral Hillekoetter pointed out that "the Director will personally take final action on all [such] recommendations for pay increases." This letter does not, of course, constitute a binding commitment at this time, but its contents may have some bearing on the Agency's future course of action.

7. No reference has been made herein to awards of the Medal of Freedom and the Medal of Merit, because of the Director's desire to handle such recommendations personally.

25X1A9a

LAWRENCE R. MONTGOMERY
General Counsel

Legal Division

Vital Records

SUBJECT (314C - Del of Authority) (extra copy in 350)

CHRONO

OPINION EXPRESSED IN PARA. 2 IS BASED ON 26 Comp. Gen. 442.